



STATE OF TENNESSEE
STANDING EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE
TENNESSEE SENATE
AND
TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 12, 2019

Commissioner Penny Schwinn
Tennessee Department of Education
700 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Commissioner Schwinn:

Thank you for meeting with us to discuss the state's school accountability system. Having a strong, accurate, and transparent accountability system is critical to continuing our educational successes and ensuring parents have the information they need to make important decisions about their children's education. While our state has shown great gains in education over the course of the past decade and our current accountability model has been praised repeatedly on a national level, we must always be looking for ways to improve and sustain success. We welcome your desire to ensure our school and district accountability models continue to be among the best in the nation.

As you undertake the task of finding ways to improve our accountability system we ask that you use a deliberative and transparent process that includes extensive feedback from relevant stakeholders. Any changes to our current accountability model must maintain the use of growth as measured by the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) and comply with both ESSA and state accountability laws. We expect that any proposed changes be presented and approved by the State Board of Education and that the timeline for implementing approved changes be fair to the districts, schools, and teachers. Please let us know how we can be helpful in supporting you as we work together to improve education in our state.

Sincerely,

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, likely belonging to Dolores Gresham.

Dolores Gresham
Chairman
Senate Education Committee

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, likely belonging to Mark White.

Mark White
Chairman
House Education Committee

CC: Governor Bill Lee
Lt Governor Randy McNally
Speaker Cameron Sexton
Sara Morrison